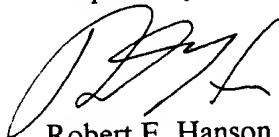


82. (Amended) An expression cassette for producing the transformed monocot plant of claim 59, wherein the expression cassette comprises a preselected first DNA segment encoding an enzyme which catalyzes the synthesis of the osmoprotectant proline, operably linked to a promoter functional in a host cell, where in the promoter is selected from the group consisting of the *Glb* promoter, the *Adh1* promoter, and the *Act1* promoter.

COMMENTS

Claims 64 and 82 have been amended herein to clarify the relationship of the claims with the subject matter of claim 59. The amendments do not change the scope of the claims and, accordingly, Applicants do not intend to disclaim any subject matter by the amendments. A marked copy of the amendments is provided in **Appendix A**. Claims 59-96 are pending in the case and are presented herein for consideration. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (512)536-3085 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX A: MARKED VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIMS

64. (Amended) A method [to increase water stress resistance or tolerance in monocot plant cells] for producing the plant of claim 59 comprising:

- (a) introducing into cells of a monocot plant an expression cassette comprising a preselected first DNA segment encoding an enzyme which catalyzes the synthesis of the osmoprotectant proline, operably linked to a promoter functional in the monocot plant cells, to yield transformed monocot plant cells; and
- (b) expressing the enzyme encoded by the preselected first DNA segment in the transformed monocot plant cells so as to render the transformed monocot plant cells substantially water stress tolerant or resistant.

82. (Amended) An expression cassette for producing the transformed monocot plant of claim 59, wherein the expression cassette comprises [comprising] a preselected first DNA segment encoding an enzyme which catalyzes the synthesis of the osmoprotectant proline, operably linked to a promoter functional in a host cell, where in the promoter is selected from the group consisting of the *Glb* promoter, the *Adh1* promoter, and the *Act1* promoter.

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